(a) whether an official of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has stated that around 20,000 girls are being trafficked in the country; and

(b) if so, the action plan of Government to crack down on traffickers to control this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per the information supplied by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the National Human Rights Commission Report 'Trafficking in Women and Children in India' states that "A study conducted in 1992 estimated that at any given time, 20,000 girls are being transported from one part of the country to another".

(b) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) supplemented by the Indian Penal code prohibits trafficking in human beings including children for purpose of prostitution and lays down severe penalties for traffickers. The ITPA is now being further amended providing for more stringent punishment for trafficking in persons including girls. As per information received from Ministry of Home Affairs, the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) has prepared a training manual on "Human Trafficking-Handbook for Investigators" for use in the police training institutes.

Ill-treatment and sexual harassment in juvenile homes

4263. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of ill-treatment and sexual harassment/abuse in juvenile homes, have been reported extensively;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted about the affairs of the juvenile homes and State run observation homes;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken to improve the condition of the juvenile homes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and

(b) The study on Child Abuse : India 2007 of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, based on sample surveys, reveals physical and sexual abuse of children living in homes.

(c) and (d) No such survey has been conducted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. However, the Ministry has recently monitored and inspected the homes with the help of State Governments and Voluntary Organisations to review the functioning in these homes.

(e) The Ministry of Women and Child Development has formulated a new centrally sponsored scheme-Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) for implementation during Eleventh Plan period to provide for a comprehensive child protection framework for children of the country.

Trafficking of girls to Gulf countries

†4264. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether girls of poor families from various States of the country are being trafficked to Gulf countries; and

(b) if so, the names of States where such trafficking is going on and the details of measures taken by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per information received from Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, in cases of workers being sent abroad by illegal/unscrupulous Recruiting Agents, the State Police is requested to take legal action against the agents. Protectors of Emigrants (POEs) also file FIR with local police. A ban has also been imposed on grant of emigration clearance to women below the age of 30 (thirty) years if they are seeking employment as housemaids/domestic workers in any ECR (Emigration Check Required) country. No data about the States where such trafficking is going on, is available.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi